

finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brett has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the two years Brett has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 27 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Patrol Leader, Librarian, Senior Patrol Leader, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Brett is also a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow and is a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Brett did landscaping for the courtyard at Heritage Village Assisted Living Center in Platte City, Missouri. Brett planted and mulched two trees, built a birdfeeder, and also constructed two wooden benches that were placed in the courtyard for use by the residents.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brett Michael Babcock for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VERNA TOWNE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable woman from my district. Verna Towne from Mancos, Colorado was recently named "Citizen of the Year" for the Mancos Valley. I am proud to call her contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today.

The charitable acts that culminated in Verna's recognition as "Citizen of the Year" are too numerous to list. She is an active member of the VFW and Lioness clubs, volunteers her time at the Mancos Senior Center, and is instrumental in the organization of the USDA Commodity Give-Away. Although she donates her time in many ways, Verna is best known for her excellent cooking. She often serves meals at a church breakfast club for teens, the Good Samaritan Center, and 9 Health Fairs as well.

Verna always extends a hand to those in need. She can often be seen shoveling snow from a friend's driveway, or delivering food to those in need of a home-cooked meal. Verna's dedication can best be described as tireless altruism and her hard work on behalf of others often extends late into the night. Verna is truly a compassionate and loving woman and Mancos is lucky to have her.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to pay tribute to Verna Towne. Verna's selfless dedication to serving others is a shining example to all Americans. The many charitable events Verna has supported over the years are a testament to her vibrant and altruistic spirit. On behalf of the countless people she has helped, and a grateful nation, I would like to thank Verna for all she has done, and congratulate her on the receipt of a well-deserved award.

HONORING THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS ON THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESTORATION TO FEDERAL RECOGNITION

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians as they celebrate their 26th anniversary of the Restoration to Federal Recognition on November 15, 2003.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians is a confederation of 27 tribes which originally ranged from Northern California to Southern Washington. In 1954, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians were one of many tribes whose federal status was terminated by Congress, and all their lands were taken away. The Siletz reservation, which once exceeded 1.1 million acres was completely gone, and the confederation was no longer recognized.

While nothing could destroy the tribes' culture and traditions that were passed from generation to generation, the lack of federal recognition and support hurt the Siletz.

In the late 1960s, a group of tribal members which recognized the severe effects that the termination was having on the tribe began to work to reverse the effects. They restored the tribal cemetery and created programs for drug and alcohol rehabilitation, job training, and other social services. As they worked to fight against the ills that termination had brought on, the group realized that it must regain its federal recognition.

After many years of intense lobbying, the tribe regained its federal recognition on November 18th, 1977 when President Carter signed an act of Congress restoring the Siletz. The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians were the second tribe in the United States and the first in Oregon to have their federal recognition restored.

Since being restored, the tribe has blossomed and re-established nearly all of its institutions of government. This re-establishment of tribal government has led to better service programs and economic growth which in turn has led to greater preservation of tribal history and tradition.

With its recognition restored and tribal government re-established, the tribe began to grow, and that growth continues to this day. In 1983, a community center was built, serving as an all-purpose gathering place for tribal and non-tribal activities. 1991 brought the addition of a community health clinic which serves all members of the community, tribal and non-tribal. An administration building was developed in 1995 which provides many services to tribal members on the reservation and in eleven surrounding counties in Oregon.

In 1995 the tribe developed its biggest economic project to date, the Chinook Winds Casino and Convention Center. This venture, combined with the other tribal projects, made the tribe one of the largest employers in Lincoln County.

This growth didn't end with the creation of the casino and convention center. Since 1995, the tribe has built a Dance House, the Siletz Tribal Business Corporation, and most recently the Siletz Valley School. The school, a

public charter school that serves 170 children from the surrounding community, was opened after the local school closed due to budget cuts.

As you can see, since their successful fight to regain federal recognition, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians have been dedicated to improving the lives of their 4,000 members as well as the lives of the people of Oregon. One of the best examples of this dedication to improvement is the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, which has distributed more than \$1.5 million to projects in Oregon.

Today it is my pleasure to honor and recognize the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians as they celebrate their 26th anniversary of their Restoration to Federal Recognition.

RECOGNIZING MR. FRED SALEM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize the accomplishments of my longtime friend Mr. Fred Salem. Fred Salem is a child advocate and philanthropist. His hard work and dedication to the people of Genesee County is without doubt commendable. On November 12, 2003, the community along with his family gathered to say thank you during a party held at the Ramada Inn located in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Fred Salem has been a resident of Mt. Morris Township for 35 years. If one could sum up the character of Fred Salem, it would be said that he is a concerned, compassionate, loyal and dedicated citizen. Fred is a humanitarian. Fred has dedicated numerous hours and dollars toward worthy causes. Through his efforts many children and organizations have been able to fulfill dreams that would have otherwise been dismissed. Fred is currently affiliated with a number of organizations, those organizations include but not limited to, the Whaley Children's Center, St. John Vianney Day Care, New Life Childcare & Preschool, Girl Scouts and Brownies Troops of Genesee County, Boy Scouts, The Sylvester Broome Center, Big Brothers and Sisters Organization. Fred is also involved with the Flushing Community Church of the Nazarene, Dr. John Socey and staff, Dr. Chambers & Staff, St. Pius Church and Bible groups, St. George, New Life Christian Fellowship, St. Robert's Pre-K classes (all), St. Robert's Kindergarten classes, Flushing Kindergarten, St. Agnes Church, 96.1 and 93.7 radio stations' picnic, Johnny Burke Birthday Party, and the Northern High School Class Reunion.

On a personal note, each year Fred and his wife Cindy host the annual Community Fourth of July fireworks display in their backyard. Fred steps up when the Government can't. At his residence Fred has transposed his backyard into a miniature Disney Land. Children from ages 2 and beyond come to partake in the fun festivities that are held there year around. One attraction that children enjoy is the go-cart course he had installed and also the historical walkthrough, which includes an old fashion store, antique cars and trucks.

Aside from being an outstanding leader and role model, he is a wonderful devoted family man to his wife Cindy.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating my friend Fred Salem. He has served his community with enthusiasm and concern. I wish him all the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING MARCUS W. PHILLIPS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Marcus W. Phillips, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 362, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Marcus has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the ten years Marcus has been involved with scouting, he has earned 21 merit badges and has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Chaplain Aide, Quartermaster, Patrol Leader, and Scribe. Marcus earned the honor of Brave, Warrior, and Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and served on staff at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation teaching younger scouts woodworking.

For his Eagle Scout project, Marcus organized and supervised ten other Scouts in the landscaping of a section of the Children's Garden at Duncan Road Baptist Church in Blue Springs, Missouri. They spent 150 hours planting trees and shrubs, placing decorative rock, and adding both edging and fencing to the Garden.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Marcus W. Phillips for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO PAULA SCHAEFER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and contributions of a remarkable woman from my district. Paula Schaefer from Durango, Colorado passed away recently at the age of 54. She will long be remembered for charitable acts in her community, her friendly disposition, and her unyielding love for her family.

Paula was born in Wichita Falls, Texas in 1948. It was there that she met and married Lyndall, her husband of 36 years. Upon moving to Durango, Paula became an accomplished Businesswoman. She served as the President of the Durango area Association of Realtors, and was recognized as "Realtor of the Year" in 2003.

Paula's contributions to the Durango community were extensive. As a member of the Lion's Club, and co-founder of the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity, Paula was dedi-

cated to helping those in need. There is no doubt that countless people are better off as the result of Paula's selfless commitment to others.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication and integrity demonstrated throughout Paula Schaefer's life certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress and our nation. There is no question that Paula will be remembered as a great businesswoman. However, she will best be remembered as a selfless person, a great friend, and a dedicated mother and wife. My heart goes out to Paula's loved ones in this difficult time of bereavement.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM AUSTIN

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate William Austin on being honored with the National Caring Award for his efforts to help hearing-impaired children around the world. Through his tireless work at the Starkey Hearing Foundation, William has helped provide over 80,000 hearing aids to children in 70 countries since 2000.

William has worked constantly on innovative ways to improve hearing technology and serves many high profile celebrities and athletes. But his true calling lies in helping children around the world who suffer from hearing impairment. By donating hearing aids, batteries and other hearing products to countless needy children, he has given them the ultimate gift—the gift of hearing. Where there was once silence, thousands of children can now hear their mother's voice, the falling rain, and the sweet sound of music.

The Caring Institute, who honored William with the award, seeks to promote the values of caring, integrity and public service. Those selected to receive the National Caring Award, including William, represent the best of these qualities.

Again, I congratulate William. And thank you for all your work for hearing impaired children around the world.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ALBERT H. VIERLING, JR.

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Albert H. Vierling, Jr., a community leader and veterans advocate from Berlin, New Jersey who died suddenly on October 24, 2003.

A decorated Army Veteran of the Korean War, Al was a member of ANMAC VFW Post #6253 where he served as Service Officer and was the Commander for 12 years. He was a member, Service Officer, and past commander of American Legion Post #271. Al was the Commander of Camden County VFW District 1984–1985 receiving the All American District Commander Award. He was a 1977 founding member of the Camden County Veteran Advisory Committee. Al was a volunteer with the

Camden County Veterans Affairs Office since 1990, becoming a part time employee with the Office while serving as Supervisor of Veterans Interment for Camden County.

Al was also a leader in the greater Philadelphia labor community. Retiring in 1977, Al was the Shop Steward for Teamsters Union Local 628 of Philadelphia where he worked for over 25 years. He was the building maintenance supervisor for the borough of Berlin for over 10 years. Additionally, Al was very active in community athletics as a founder and past president of the Interboro Athletic Association, former coach of the Overbrook Cowboys, and former member and coach of the Berlin Athletic Association.

Whether he was helping veterans navigate the Veterans Administration bureaucracy, selling poppies each May to raise money for South Jersey veterans or organizing scores of events to pay tribute to our nation's heroes, Mr. Vierling worked tirelessly to assist and honor veterans. Al did everything in his power to make sure that our government upheld the promises it made to veterans and that the American people did not forget the sacrifices made and the freedom won by those who served our nation in uniform. Additionally, on the athletic field, Al taught scores of South Jersey youth the value of hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, Al Vierling left the First Congressional District of New Jersey a better place. He touched the lives of hundreds of people in South Jersey. His lifelong service will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO JOSE MACARIO VALDEZ

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 17, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I pay tribute to Jose Macario Valdez of Trinidad, Colorado. Jose passed away recently at the age of 79, and as I look back on his life, I see the story of a great American. As his family mourns their loss, I think it is appropriate that we remember Jose's life, and celebrate the outstanding contributions that he made to the community of Trinidad, and this country.

Jose was born in Trinidad in 1924. During World War II, he answered his country's call to duty and joined the Army Air Corps. As an Air Transportation Technician in the Pacific Theater, Jose served with remarkable valor and courage on nearly 100 missions. For his heroism, Jose was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, a Good Conduct Medal, and the Burma Asiatic Pacific Service Medal. Jose's awards are illustrative of the courage and valor that defined his selfless protection of our country.

Upon returning to Trinidad, Jose met and married Prospera Lovato, his wife of 56 years. He went to work for CF&I Steel for eight years. He then became a coal miner before going to work for the City of Trinidad as a power plant fireman, a position he held for 24 years. Jose was deeply involved in the Trinidad community. He was an active member of the Sociedad De San Antonia de Padua and the Holy Trinity Church as well.